

Take Home Naloxone (THN) program update

Further to Benefacts 575, 612 and 672 regarding the Take Home Naloxone (THN) Program, new information is provided including details on pharmacy provision of THN kits, claims processes, order quantities and expired naloxone. Note that the THN Program may be referred to as the Community Based Naloxone Program and THN kits as Overdose Response Kits in future communications.

Provision of THN Kits from Pharmacies

Effective December 20, 2017, THN kits may be provided from pharmacies by pharmacists, pharmacy technicians and pharmacy assistants, who have completed appropriate education, to those at risk of experiencing an opioid overdose or likely to witness and need to respond to an opioid overdose (outside a hospital setting).

Please refer to the Alberta College of Pharmacists (ACP) *Guidance for Providing Take Home Naloxone Kits (THN) as an Unscheduled Drug* document posted on the ACP website at <https://pharmacists.ab.ca>.

Claims processes

It is **not necessary** for pharmacists, pharmacy technicians or pharmacy assistants to see and record patient-specific information such as Personal Health Number (PHN), client name and date of birth when submitting a claim for a naloxone kit under the THN Program. This change, for claims anonymity, is supported by the Alberta College of Pharmacists as naloxone, when used for an opioid overdose outside a hospital setting, became Unscheduled in Alberta as of February 2017.

To facilitate claims submissions from pharmacy technicians and pharmacy assistants, a pseudo Prescriber Identification Number 22111PT- Pharmacy Technician/Assistant has been established. This pseudo Prescriber Identification Number used with the applicable Pharmacist Identification Number and Reference Code 86 are to be entered for claims where a THN kit has been provided by a trained pharmacy technician or pharmacy assistant.

For claims anonymity, the following should be used in the applicable fields when submitting claims:

- PHN—use NX0000000 (as was allowed before)
- Client's full name—use "Program" for first name and "Naloxone" for last name
- Date of birth—use any combination of numbers that satisfy the format YYYYMMDD
- Client gender - use F or M

All other fields must be completed as follows.

- Carrier code 16 (as the third-party plan)
- Group 23464, Section 000
- DIN 02393034 (for the naloxone in the kit – Omega 0.4mg/mL)
- Quantity—1 (only one kit may be provided at a time per client)
- Service date
- Pharmacy license number
- Payment Amount (Drug Benefit Fee up to \$12.30; cost of the naloxone up to \$0.01 per THN kit)

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For clarity, the chart below outlines the information required within the appropriate CPhA standard fields.

CPhA field	THN kit is prescribed	THN kit is not prescribed	
		Pharmacist provides	Pharmacy technician or pharmacy assist provides
Prescriber ID	Actual	License number of pharmacist	22111PT
Prescriber ID Reference	Actual	86	86
Pharmacist ID	License number of pharmacist	License number of pharmacist	License number of pharmacist

Ordering THN kits

If needed, the order quantity for THN kits has been increased to five (5) kits at a time. If you find that this quantity does not meet the needs of your clients, you may contact naloxone.kit@ahs.ca to request an increase to your order limit. Pharmacies should always have THN kits on hand but it is important not to stockpile kits in order to maintain supply for all participating sites in Alberta.

THN Program requirements

Remember that provision of a THN kit could save a life; therefore, it is critical that:

- THN Program education be completed by the pharmacist, pharmacy technician or pharmacy assistant prior to their provision of kits. Education resources for pharmacists, pharmacy technicians and pharmacy assistants are available from the Alberta Pharmacists' Association (RxA) at rxa.ca/professional-development/community-based-naloxone-program.aspx. Resources are also available via the Alberta Health Services (AHS) THN webpage at www.albertahealthservices.ca/info/Page13663.aspx;
- All staff responding to the public are aware that your pharmacy is registered with the THN Program and can direct clients to staff who can answer questions about the THN Program;
- THN kits are provided to those requesting one due to risk of an opioid overdose or possible witness of an overdose (unless a clear contraindication is present);
- All clients are counseled when receiving a THN kit and provided information on:
 - overdose prevention and recognition,
 - calling 911,
 - rescue procedures,
 - naloxone administration,
 - aftercare,
 - kit storage, and
 - program evaluation.
- Pharmacy contact information provided to AHS for the Program is up to date and complete. Please forward any changes to naloxone.kit@ahs.ca.

As well, per program requirements or client assistance:

- Provide one kit at a time. Subsequent kits can be provided to clients, as needed.
- Encourage those who have received a kit to complete the Client Usage Reporting Form at survey.albertahealthservices.ca/naloxone. Assist clients with completion of the form, when possible.
- If appropriate, offer the AHS 24 Hour Addictions Helpline at 1-866-332-2322 to clients receiving a kit.
- AHS's site www.drugsafe.ca (previously www.stopODs.ca) provides valuable information including a section for health professionals with educational videos and patient resources.

To meet these requirements, kits must continue to be kept in the dispensary area of the pharmacy.

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Expired Naloxone Vials

Clients should be advised to return unused expired naloxone vials to any pharmacy that is participating in the THN Program for safe disposal. Clients may receive a new kit. A current list of participating THN Program sites, including pharmacies, is available at www.albertahealthservices.ca/info/Page15586.aspx.

Requests for Multiple Kits

Individuals representing groups or organizations and requesting more than one kit at a time should be referred to Alberta Health Services at naloxone.kit@ahs.ca.

How to Participate in the THN Program

If your pharmacy is interested in participating in the THN Program refer to the "Take Home Naloxone Program – Information for the Pharmacist" available at (rxa.ca/professional-development/community-based-naloxone-program.aspx). The AHS THN Program registration form can be found in the RxA training module.

Thank you

The pharmacy community is thanked for participating in the THN Program. Distribution of THN kits through community pharmacies has had a positive impact. As of September 30, 2017, the 919 pharmacies registered to participate in the Program had provided 10,082 kits out of the 27,772 given to Albertans (since January 2016).

When you have questions:

For assistance with benefit or claim inquiries, please contact an Alberta Blue Cross Pharmacy Services Provider Relations contact centre representative at:

780-498-8370 (Edmonton and area) • **403-294-4041** (Calgary and area) • **1-800-361-9632** (toll free)

FAX 780-498-8406 (Edmonton and area) • **FAX 1-877-305-9911** (toll free)

Alberta Blue Cross offers online access to current Pharmacy Benefits and supplemental claiming information to assist with the submission of your direct bill drug claims. **Visit www.ab.bluecross.ca/providers/pharmacy-home.php**



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